

civil war: a war among groups inside of one country.

communist: governments or individuals that follow the philosophy of communism or their interpretation of it. Directly opposed to capitalism, communism is a political philosophy asserting that private property should be eliminated in favor of public, egalitarian ownership of factories, farms, natural resources, and more.

cult of personality: the phenomenon in which a public figure, usually a political leader, is presented by their government as an idealized individual or a role model, often through propaganda.

default: failure to make a payment on a bond or loan as scheduled.

democratic institutions: the organized bodies associated with a democratic form of governance, like freely elected legislatures. Not associated with the U.S. political party by the same name.

financial reserves: savings a country holds in its central bank, usually in a strong foreign currency like the U.S. dollar.

foreign intervention: when one country interferes in the affairs of another. The term most often refers to military operations, but foreign intervention can also be political, such as efforts to determine the outcome of an election.

fracking: another name for hydraulic fracturing, a process through which natural gas and oil are extracted from the earth.

GDP per capita: a measure of a country's economic output determined by the value of goods and services it produces in a given year, or gross domestic product, divided by the number of people in that country.

governance: the tasks and activities of governing, or running, a country.

Glossary: Development

industrialization: the process of transition from a small-scale, largely agricultural economy to an industry-intensive one that include mass production of goods. Industrialization is typically marked by technological advances and higher standards of living, but also heightened amounts of energy usage.

state-building: the process of creating and establishing the institutions needed for a functioning country, such as courts, legislatures, and bureaucracies. It can be undertaken internally by the country itself or externally by outside powers.

rule of law: the idea that laws established through proper processes, not the arbitrary decisions of rulers, should govern a society. This is a fairly broad concept, but generally includes principles like clear and transparent laws, accountability for all, including those in power, and equal treatment of all citizens by legal institutions.

weapons of mass destruction (WMD): biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons; or any other explosive that can cause particularly high levels of death and destruction.